

THE HUSBAND TEST

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The Husband Test by Mary Carolyn Davies & Elizabeth Pilsbry

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MARY CAROLYN DAVIES & ELIZABETH PILSBRY

THE HUSBAND TEST



"THERE ARE NO DROWNED MEN IN HER EYES," HE BEGAN.



The Husband Test

By
MARY CAROLYN DAVIES

Frontispiece by
ELIZABETH PILSBRY

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CHAPTER I

BETTINA OF THE BOURGEOISIE

ANARCHISM and baths would be a political combination hard to conquer.

But that they will ever be combined is doubtful. The leaders who insist on baths alone, overlook the adventurous part of one's nature to which anarchism makes its eternal appeal; and those who insist on anarchism alone, forget that, if stifled too long, the part of one's nature which craves baths, will arise and assert itself.

As society is constituted now, we must each make our fateful choice. The world is lined up into two "sides," like a spelling match, each side glaring at the other and resolved to spell it down. This is what divided New York into "Uptown" and "The Village."



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Uptown is a place where people have clean table napkins and no ideas; and Greenwich Village, where they have any number of ideas, but no clean table napkins. The denizens of these two different countries never mingle; of course, natives of each go slumming into the hostile territory, but slumming can on no account be said to be mingling. A slumming expedition is undertaken for the purpose of criticizing while it is going on, and of boasting afterward. One goes for the reason one climbs mountains, not for the sake of any inherent pleasure, but only to say one has done it.

Parties of women who live at the Astor come with their escorts to Polly's, and the cellar of the Brevoort, and to the Pow-wow, and Marie's, level spiritual lorgnettes at anyone who happens to be sitting at the candle-clad tables, speculate in whispers about their probable morals, and then go home and describe it all at each other's teas.

"Weird, simply weird, my dear." And, seeing smocks which cost their owners seventy-six cents, they copy them accurately at an expense of twenty-seven dollars, and wear them